



one on one

conceived, directed and produced
by
wendy clarke

ONE ON ONE is an art project designed to use the medium of video as a means for forming relationships between people who would otherwise never get a chance to communicate with each other. Inmates taking a workshop with Clarke at the California Institution for Men, in Chino, CA. made in an introductory tape and Clarke took these tapes and showed them to people on the outside and asked them, one by one, to make a video tape directed to one of the inmates. Once the pairings had been made she shuttled the tapes back and forth, getting the video responses to each other.

"The camera, instead of blocking communication, seems to be a two-way umbilical cord that nourishes the candor of both parties. The longer you watch these tapes, the more mesmerizing they become and the more they reveal."

...some of the most stimulating television...the seductive potency of "One on One" and its ability to converse on levels that are near unique for television."

- Howard Rosenberg, Los Angeles Times

LIST OF TAPES

One on One: Ken and Louise- color 1hr. 23 min..

One on One: Ricky and Cecelia - color 29 min..

One on One: Arnold and Ahneva - color 46 min..

ONE ON ONE

CONCEIVED, PRODUCED AND DIRECTED BY

WENDY CLARKE

VIDEO DIALOGUES BETWEEN THE INMATES AT CALIFORNIA INSTITUTION FOR MEN IN CHINO, CA., THE MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH IN OCEAN PART IN SANTA MONICA, CA. AND A GROUP OF CRENSHAW RESIDENTS IN L.A., CA.

RAUL AND JEANENE 1:07 hrs.

KEN AND LOUISE 1:20 hrs.

RICKY AND CECELIA 29 min.

ARNOLD AND AHNEVA 46 min.

DAMON AND RAMSESS 35 min.

RAY AND FRANCEYE 53 min.

BREEZE AND VALENCIA 35 min.

ONE ON ONE is an art project designed to use the medium of video as a means for forming relationships between people who would otherwise never get a chance to communicate with each other. As in my other works (The Love Tapes, Interactive Video), I envision my role as an artist in terms of planning, facilitating, directing, and synthesizing interactive situations. I provide both a base structure and a taping format from which the art experience is created through subject-medium interaction.

I asked the inmates at the California Institution for Men, in Chino, CA. to participate in an introductory tape. This tape was made by having each inmate, one by one, sit in front of the camera and introduce himself by saying his name, talking about who he is, why he is in prison and what his interests are. I then took these tapes and showed them to people on the outside and asked them, one by one, to make a video tape directed to one of the inmates. I took these tapes back to the prison and showed them to the inmates, and again asked each of them to make a response to the person who had made the tape for them on the outside. I went back and forth between the prison and the outside communities making and showing these tapes...and so the dialogues continued.

The one rule we had was that this dialogue was only to be held on video. Each person was to be in contact through video and never in person or by letter. I did this because I wanted the relationships to be a pure video experience, one that was bound to the essence of the medium. The number of times that the participants dialogued depended on several factors: it was over when the inmate was paroled, a time limit had been set from the start or the participants did not want to continue.

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